(b) Further increase of 50% for the period 1-1-1993 to 31-12-1995 over the amount admissible on 1-11-1989.

(ii) ICPA agreed to review, mutually with the management, working hours and utilisation of pilots to complete all the requirements of the Airline and optimum utilisation of all the aircraft.

PATA'S Observations on Tourism

1537. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) Whether a meeting of the Pacific Asian Travel Association is being held in April, 1993 at Delhi;

(b) If so, whether Government's attention has been drawn to the criticism made by the Vice President (Marketing) of the PATA relating to the inadequate funds, lack of publicity and the casual manner in which tourist related services were managed in India as appeared in the Indian Express of 28th January, 1993; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction to the criticism and also the various suggestions made by him for the healthy growth of tourism in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) Pacific Asian Travel Association (PATA) through its India chapter is holding the PATA Travel Mart as well as the Marketing Conference in New Delhi from 1st to 5th April, 1993. The PATA India Chapter and the Department of Tourism will extend facilities and support the event. It is also proposed to utilise the event which will be attended by a large number of persons from international travel industry to project India as an attractive tourist destination.

Efforts have been made to improve India as a tourist destination and for the promotion and publicity of tourism in the international market. Adequate funds are being provided for the purpose. Activities that would provide entertainment to tourists are being taken up including fairs, festivals, cultural, sound and light shows. Training for tourism staff and personnel of tourism related activities are being conducted on a regular basis.

Position of fleet utilisation in Air India and Indian Airlines

1538. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) what is the percentage of fleet utilisation in the Indian Airlines and Air India, at present;

(b) whether the fleet utilisation is satisfactory in both the airlines; and

(c) if not, what corrective steps Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Varied Aircraft in Indian Airlines

1539. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that with a varied aircraft type (long haul and short haul), several of Indian Airlines Aircraft could be used to serve the present Air India routes to West Asia and South-East Asia;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Boeing 747 aircraft as used by the Air India at present could be used to serve additional long haul routes and frequencies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government have any proposal to undertake route restructuring for Indian Airlines & Air India in view of the above position ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Indian Airlines is already serving Sharjah in West Asia and Bangkok and Singapore in South East Asia.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. However, airlinking of additional long haul points depends on traffic potential and entitlements under bilateral agreements.

(d) Route restructuring is an on-going process watch is undertaken by the airlines on the basis of traffic potential, entitlements under bilateral agreements and availability of right type of aircraft etc.